

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 3138 - SB 2979

February 24, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires any insurance plan or policy issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2012, that provides coverage for surgical first assisting benefits or services, to cover a registered nurse first assistant who performs services that are within the scope of practice of a registered nurse first assistant.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Potential Impact on Health Insurance Premiums (required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 3-2-111): Such legislation will not result in a significant change in the cost of health insurance premiums for surgical first assisting benefits.

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Commerce and Insurance, the provisions of the bill will not create additional responsibilities or significantly change the current regulatory, administrative, or enforcement activities of the Department.
- According to the Department of Finance and Administration, the public sector health plans currently provide reimbursement for services performed by registered nurse first assistants.
- According to the Bureau of TennCare, the provisions of the bill do not apply to managed care organizations that contract with the TennCare program.
- Private sector health premium impact: The provisions of the bill do not mandate coverage of additional services. Requiring coverage of the services being performed by a registered nurse first assistant will not result in a significant change in the rates paid for surgical first assisting benefits or services within private health insurance networks. Without a significant rate change, premiums will not significantly change.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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